

Explanatory Notes

The certificates that follow are to be used for the export of breeding poultry other than ratites to the EU; hatching eggs from poultry other than ratites to the EU; day-old chicks other than from ratites to the EU; and for slaughter poultry and poultry for restocking game supplies, other than ratites, to the EU.

Please advise exporters to check with their importers about obtaining a copy of the applicable health certificate in the official language of the country of destination.

Concerning various directives and decisions noted in the health certificates:

- Directive 90/539/EEC is the general set of import requirements for poultry/day-old chicks/hatching eggs to the EU. U.S. commercial poultry establishments meet these conditions.
- Decision 93/342/EEC defines ways of classifying countries/regions free of Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle Disease (ND). The U.S. is officially free of highly pathogenic AI (fowl plague) and US Region 1 is officially free of velogenic viscerotropic ND (VVND) (the strain of ND the EU is primarily concerned about).

Since Sweden and Finland are considered to be free of turkey rhinotracheitis/swollen head syndrome (TRT/SHS), the following certification statements must be added to any health certificate for poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks being offered for export to Sweden and/or Finland.

1.1 Hatching eggs must come from flocks which:

- have not been vaccinated against TRT/SHS.
- have been serologically tested during the last 12 months against TRT/SHS, and the test results have shown with 95% probability that the prevalence of antibodies to TRT/SHS is less than 5%.
and
- have shown no clinical, serological or pathological signs of TRT/SHS according to official information during the last 12 months.

1.2 Day-old chicks must:

- not have been vaccinated against TRT/SHS.
- Come from flocks satisfying the conditions in 1.1.
and
- come from a hatchery where working practices ensure that such eggs are incubated at completely separate times and locations from eggs not satisfying the conditions in 1.1.

1.3 Breeding and productive poultry must:

- not have been vaccinated against TRT/SHS
- come from an establishment where no vaccination against TRT/SHS has been carried out during the last 12 months preceding consignment.

- have been isolated for 14 days before consignment under supervision of the official veterinarian and, at the site of isolation, no poultry must have been vaccinated against TRT/SHS and no poultry must have entered during the isolation period.
- come from an establishment where no vaccination against TRT/SHS has been carried out during the last 12 months preceding consignment

and

- have been serologically tested during the isolation period against TRT/SHS, and the test results have shown with 95% probability that the prevalence of antibodies to TRT/SHS is less than 5%.

1.4 Slaughter poultry must be transported directly to the slaughterhouse.

Breeding poultry exported to Sweden and Finland must be subjected to a microbiological test for Salmonella effected by sampling in the flock of origin as follows:

- The flock of origin must be isolated for 15 days.
- The microbiological test must cover all the Salmonella serotypes.
- The sampling method and the number of samples to be taken is as follows:

A. Rearing flocks

- (1) In the case of pullets at 4 weeks of age or 2 weeks prior to entering the laying phase, pooled feces samples made up of separate samples of fresh feces each weighing not less than 1 gram taken at random from a number of sites in the building in which the birds are kept, or where the birds have free access to more than one building on a particular holding, from each group of buildings on the holding in which the birds are kept.
- (2) The number of sites from which separate feces samples are to be taken in order to make a pooled sample shall be as follows:

<u>Number of birds kept in a building</u>	<u>Number of feces samples to be taken in the building or group of buildings on the holding</u>
-------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1-24	Number equal to the number of birds up to a maximum of 20
25-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-199	50
200-499	55
500 or more	60

B. Adult breeding flocks

- (1) All adult breeding flocks must be sampled at least every 2 weeks during the laying period.

- (2) Breeding flocks whose eggs are hatched at a hatchery with a total incubator capacity of less than 1000 eggs must be sampled on the holding and the samples to be taken shall consist of a pooled feces sample made up of separate feces samples, each weighing not less than 1 gram, collected in accordance with Point (A) (1) above.
- (3) Breeding flocks whose eggs are hatched at a hatchery with a total incubator capacity of 1000 eggs or more must be sampled through the hatchery and the samples to be taken shall consist of:
 - (a) pooled samples of meconium taken from 250 chicks hatched from eggs supplied to the hatchery from each breeding flock; or
 - (b) Samples of carcasses of 50 chicks which are dead in the shells of eggs or which have been hatched from eggs supplied to the hatchery from each breeding flock.
- (4) Such samples must also be taken from breeding flocks comprising less than 250 birds whose eggs hatched in hatcheries with a total incubator capacity of 1000 eggs or more.
- (5) Every eight weeks, the sampling provided for in Point (B) must be replaced by official sampling, which must be conducted in accordance with Point (4) above.

MODEL C

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE
for day-old chicks other than from ratites
intended for consignment to the European Community

1. Consignor (name and address in full)

2. HEALTH CERTIFICATE

No. ORIGINAL

3.1 Country of origin: U.S.A.

3.2 Region of origin(1): _____

4. Consignee (name and address in full):

5. COMPETENT AUTHORITY:

5.1 Ministry: USDA/APHIS

5.2 Service: Veterinary Services (VS)

6. COMPETENT AUTHORITY (LOCAL LEVEL): VS (State of Origin)

7. Place of loading: _____

8. Means of transport(2): _____

9.1 Member State of destination: _____

9.2 Final destination:(name and address in full:

10. Address of establishment(s) of origin: (hatcheries)

11. Approval number(s) of the establishment(s) of origin: (hatcheries)

12. Poultry species: _____

13. Category: Pure line/grandparents/parents/laying stock/broilers/others (3):

14. Consignment identification details: (including any container seal numbers)

15. Quantity: (in words and figures) _____

15.1 Number of birds: _____

15.2 Number of boxes: _____

Notes:

(a) A separate certificate must be provided for each consignment of day-old chicks transported in the same railway wagon, lorry, aircraft or ship and consigned to the same destination.

(b) The original of the certificate must accompany the consignment until it reaches the border inspection post.

(c) it must be completed on the day of loading and all time limits referred to relate to that date.

(d) After importation the poultry must be kept in isolation on the holding of destination for at least six weeks in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, 1 of Commission Decision 96/482/EC.

(1) Only to be completed if the authorization to export to the Community is restricted to certain regions of the third country concerned.

(2) Indicate means of transport and registration marks, or registered name, as appropriate.

(3) Delete the unnecessary reference.

16. I, the undersigned official veterinarian, hereby certify, in accordance with the provisions of Directive 90/539/EEC:

I. Origin of day-old chicks

that the day-old chicks have been hatched on the territory of _____(4), in the region of _____(1). If the flocks from which the hatching eggs were issued, have been imported into the country of origin, they were imported in accordance with veterinary conditions at least as strict as the relevant requirements of Directive 90/539/EEC, including any subsidiary Decisions.

II. Health information

1. that _____(4), region _____(1) is free from Avian influenza and Newcastle disease as defined in Decision 93/342/EEC;

2. that the day-old chicks described in this certificate meet the following requirements:

(a) they have been examined this day and show no clinical signs or suspicion of

disease:

(b) they have been hatched in the following establishment(s) officially approved in accordance with requirements which are at least equivalent to those laid down in Annex II to Directive 90/539/EEC: (5).

-for which the approval is not suspended or withdrawn,

-which is (are), at the time of consignment, not subject to any animal health restrictions.

-around which, within a radius of 25 km, there has been no outbreak of Avian influenza or Newcastle disease for at least 30 days:

(c) they have had no contact with poultry not meeting the requirements laid down in this certificate or with wild birds;

(d) they are hatched from eggs originating from flocks

(i) which have been held for more than six weeks in officially approved establishments for which, at the time of consignment of the hatching eggs to the hatchery, the approval was not suspended or withdrawn;

(ii) which are not located in regions which are not free from Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease;

(iii) which present, this day, no clinical signs or suspicion of disease;

(iv) which have been submitted to a disease surveillance program for (6):

-Salmonella pullorum, S. gallinarum and Mycoplasma gallisepticum (fowls)

-Salmonella arizonae, S. pullorum and S. gallinarum, Mycoplasma meleagridis and M. gallisepticum (turkeys)

-Salmonella pullorum and S. gallinarum (guinea fowls, quails, pheasants, partridges and ducks) according to Chapter III of Annex II of Directive 90/539/EEC and was not found infected nor suspected of infection by these agents;

(v)-which have not been vaccinated against Newcastle disease(6)

-which have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease using: _____

(name, type of - live or inactivated – and NDV strain used in vaccine(s) at the age of _____ weeks(6)

(vi) have been vaccinated, using officially approved vaccines

At the age of

Against

(e) they have been hatched from eggs which:

(i) had been marked prior to the consignment to the hatchery in accordance with the instructions of the competent authority;

(ii) had been disinfected in accordance with the instructions of the competent authority.

3. that the chicks have hatched on _____ date(s).

4. that the chicks have been vaccinated, using officially approved vaccines, against: _____

(4) Name of the country of origin.

(5) Approval number(s) of approved establishment(s) of origin.

(6) Delete the unnecessary reference.

III. Additional health information

1. that, in the event the consignment is destined for a Member State or region from which the status has been established in accordance with Article 12, 2 of Directive 90/539/EEC, the day old chicks come from (7):

(a) hatching eggs originating from flocks which are:

(i) not vaccinated against Newcastle disease(6),

(ii) vaccinated against this disease using an inactivated vaccine(6),

(iii) vaccinated against this disease using a live vaccine at the latest 60 days before the date the eggs have been collected(6);

(b) a hatchery where working practices ensure that such eggs are incubated at completely separated times and locations from eggs not satisfying the requirements in (a);

2. that following supplementary requirements, imposed by the Member State of destination according to Articles 13 and/or 14 of Directive 90/539/EEC are met: _____

3. that, if the Member State of destination is Finland or Sweden, the day-old chicks for introduction into flocks of breeding poultry or flocks of productive poultry come from flocks which have been tested with negative results according to the rules laid down in Commission Decision 95/160/EC(8);

IV. Supplementary health information(9)

that, although the use of vaccines against Newcastle Disease which do not fulfill the specific requirements of Annex B, 2 of Decision 93/342/EEC, is not prohibited in _____(4), the breeding poultry from which the day old chicks are derived:

(a) have not been vaccinated for at least 12 months with such vaccines; and

(b) are originating from a flock which has undergone not earlier than 14 days preceding consignment on the basis of a random sample of cloacal swabs of at

least 60 birds of each flock concerned, a virus isolation test for Newcastle disease, carried out in an official laboratory, in which no avian paramyxoviruses with an Intracerebral Pathogenicity Index (ICPI) of more than 0.4 have been found; and (c) have not been in contact during the last 60 days before consignment with poultry which do not fulfill the guarantees mentioned respectively under (a) and (b), and (d) have been isolated under official surveillance on the holding of origin during the 14 day period mentioned in (b). and the hatching eggs from which they hatched have not been in contact in the hatchery or during transport with eggs or poultry which do not fulfill the abovementioned guarantees.

V. Transport information

1. that the day-old chicks are transported in disposable boxes used for the first time:
(a) which contain only day-old chicks of the same species, category and type, coming from the same establishment;

(b) which bear the following applications:

- the name of the country of consignment,
- the species of poultry concerned,
- the number of chicks,
- the category and type of production for which they are intended,
- the name, address and approval number of the production establishment,
- the approval number of the establishment of origin,
- the Member State of destination;

(c) which are closed in accordance with the instructions of the competent authority in such a way as to avoid any possibility of substitution of the contents.

2. That the containers and vehicles in which the boxes mentioned in 1 have been cleansed and disinfected before loading in accordance with the instructions of the competent authorities.

17. This certificate is valid for five days;

Live poultry or hatching in accordance with Council Directive 2003/67/EC.

Done at _____ on _____

(Signature of USDA accredited veterinarian)

(Name in capital letters of USDA accredited
veterinarian)

Seal(10)

(Signature of official veterinarian(10) USDA
federal veterinarian)

(Name in capital letters, qualifications and title)
USDA federal veterinarian

-
- (7) When the consignment is not destined for such Member States or regions (currently Denmark, Ireland, Finland, Sweden and, in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland), the guarantees given under point III.1. must be deleted.
- (8) Delete if not applicable.
- (9) This guarantee has only to be given for poultry originating from countries or parts thereof where the provisions of Article 4 (4) of Decision 93/342/EEC apply. For poultry originating from other countries, this chapter must be deleted.
- (10) Stamp and signature in a color different to that of the printing.